

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS ETEL PFOR UPU US

SUBJ UPU CONGRESS-TERRITORIES PORTUGUESE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT DECLARATION BY THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL  
(CONG. DOC. 29):

QUOTE: EVERYONE KNOWS THAT SINCE 25 APRIL, EVENTS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN PORTUGAL WHICH WILL PROVE DECISIVE AND WILL HAVE PROFOUND CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY AND ITS GENUINE REINTEGRATION INTO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. AT THIS MOMENT WE ARE IN A POSITION TO GUARANTEE THAT THE EVENTS TO WHICH I AM REFERRING ARE DETERMINING AND WILL CONTINUE TO DETERMINE IN A DECISIVE MANNER THE LIFE OF ALL THOSE LIVING IN ANY PORTUGUESE TERRITORY, AND THIS BECAUSE OF THE SPEED WITH WHICH WE ARE MOVING TOWARDS A TRULY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN WHICH THE POSSIBILITIES OF CHOICE WHICH HAVE SO FAR BEEN FORBIDDEN WILL BE OFFERED TO EACH AND EVERY PERSON.

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IN THE COURSE OF THE VERY BRIEF PERIOD WHICH HAS ELAPSED SINCE

THE MILITARY MOVEMENT OF 25 APRIL, PORTUGAL HAS GONE THROUGH THE FUNDAMENTAL STAGES WHICH ARE THE RETURN TO A COMPLETELY NORMAL PUBLIC AND POLITICAL LIFE, THE INVESTITURE OF GENERAL ANTONIO DE SPINOLA AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE FORMATION OF A PROVISIONAL CIVIL GOVERNMENT GROUPING REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE COUNTRY'S IDEOLOGICAL CURRENTS.

TO IMPLEMENT THE BROAD GUIDELINES IN THE PROGRAMME OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE THE NEW POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE, IN WHICH IT IS PLANNED TO SPEED UP THE PACE OF DEMOCRATIZATION OF PORTUGUESE SOCIETY AND INSTALL THEREIN SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACE. IN THE EXTERNAL FIELD, THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY DETERMINED TO LEND ITS TOTAL AND MOST ACTIVE HELP TO THE CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND FOR THIS PURPOSE TO COOPERATE FRANKLY WITH ALL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR ACTIVITIES, IN PARTICULAR WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND ALL ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND BODIES. MOREOVER, THE NEW CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE SHOWS ITSELF OPEN-MINDED AND READY TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONNECTION IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT PROPOSALS TO THIS EFFECT HAVE ALREADY PROMPTED A FAVOURABLE REACTION FROM CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE INTIMATED THEIR DESIRE TO RE-ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC LINKS WITH PORTUGAL IMMEDIATELY; IT IS HERE THAT WE FIND PROOF OF THE EFFECT PRODUCED AND THE PRESTIGE GAINED BY THE NEW PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. THE ORIGINALITY OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION OF 25 APRIL 1974, WHICH HAS AROUSED SO MUCH INTEREST AND SYMPATHY AMONG WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, RESULTS FROM ITS DEEPLY DEMOCRATIC CHARACTER AND FROM THE PURITY OF THE INTENTIONS OF ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MADE IT SUCCESSFUL. THIS AUTHENTIC REVOLUTION BY A PEOPLE BELONGS TO THAT PEOPLE BUT ALSO TO ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

BEFORE 25 APRIL PORTUGAL'S PARTICPATION IN THE TASKS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, AS WELL AS ALL OUT COUNTRY'S DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY, WAS HAMPERED BY A GLOBAL POLICY WHICH LED PORTUGAL PROGRESSIVELY TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION AND, DOMESTICALLY, TOWARDS A DISORDER NO LESS GREAT.

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AT THIS FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD FOLLOWING THE FORMATION OF THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AFTER MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY OF REFUSAL OF INDIVIDUAL GUARANTEES AND FREEDOMS, THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION HERE REPRESENTING THE COUNTRY WISHES TO EMPHASIZE AS STRONGLY AS POSSIBLE THE DEEP MEANING OF THE RADICAL CHANGE WHICH HAS OCCURRED IN PORTUGAL'S FOREIGN POLICY. OPEN TO THE WORLD AND DETERMINED TO REINTEGRATE THEMSELVES INTO INTERNATIONAL LIFE, THE PORTUGUESE ARE DEEPLY

IMPELLED BY A GENUINE DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF WHICH IS TO GIVE BACK HUMAN DIGNITY; IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD THIS MEANS A SINCERE DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES AND, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL PEOPLES; WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER POINT, LET US RECALL THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC HAS SOLEMNLY PLEDGED HIMSELF TO RESPECT IN FULL THE DECISION OF THE OVERSEAS POPULATIONS. A FRANK AND OPEN DIALOGUE IS ALREADY TAKING PLACE IN THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES AS WELL AS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OUTSIDE THOSE TERRITORIES OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS; THIS CONSTITUTES THE MOST AUTHENTIC ROAD FOR A SELF-DETERMINATION WITHOUT RESERVE OR RESTRICTION.

I THINK IT APPROPRIATE THAT THE WORDS I HAVE JUST SPOKEN SHOULD NOT HAVE LACKED ENTHUSIASM AND EMOTION, FOR THEY REFLECT THE FEELINGS BEING EXPERIENCED BY THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE AT THIS TIME AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ARE WORTHY OF THE CONGRESS OF AN ORGANIZATION WITH SUCH A LONG VOCATION OF UNIVERSALITY BEHIND IT. PORTUGAL WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDER STATES OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, WHOSE CREATION WAS DICTATED BY THE LOFTY AIM OF DEVELOPING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLES IN THE CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERES. THIS CONGRESS IS ALSO THE FIRST CENTENARY CONGRESS OF THE UNION. THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION CANNOT THEREFORE BUT BE PLEASED TO BE PRESENT AT IT AND TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMEMORATION WHICH, BECAUSE IT SO WELL SYMBOLIZES A CONSTANT EFFORT OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MEN OF EVERY ORIGIN, IS MAKING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND HARMONY.

CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THIS MEETING, THE FIRST TO BE HELD SINCE A CIVIL GOVERNMENT TOOK UP OFFICE IN PORTUGAL, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. MARIO SOARES, EXPRESSLY REQUESTED ME TO TRANSMIT HIS BEST WISHES BOTH

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TO YOU, MR CHAIRMAN, AND TO MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT AND ALL THE DELEGATIONS PRESENT HERE.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS ALSO ASKED ME TO EMPHASIZE THREE OF THE MAIN GUIDELINES OF PORTUGAL'S NEW FOREIGN POLICY, IN OTHER WORDS: IN THE INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE, A PROFOUND DESIRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH ALL COUNTRIES WITHOUT ANY DISTINCTION; LIKewise, ABSOLUTE RESPECT BY OUR COUNTRY FOR THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS; FINALLY ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION WITH ALL ITS CONSEQUENCES, AS A MEANS OF SOLVING THE COLONIAL PROBLEM. LAUSANNE, 23 MAY 1974.  
END QUOTE.ABRAMS

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